Food schemes for the poor

3069. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Antyodaya Anna Yojana and all other schemes of providing foodgrains to poorest of the poor people;

(b) the quantum of foodgrains released so far to Andhra Pradesh during the financial years 2001-02 and 2002-03 and the quantity of foodgrains to be given to each family per month under the various schemes, scheme-wise;

(c) the criteria and guidelines to identify and certify the beneficiaries under these schemes; and

(d) whether concerned Gram Panchayat Mandal and District Collectorate authorities regularly monitor the distribution of foodgrains to poor families under various schemes meant for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) In order of provide foodgrains to the poorest of the poor in the country, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) has been launched by the Government *w.e.f.* 25th December, 2000. The Yojana provides for 35 kgs. of foodgrains to the identified beneficiaries at a highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2 per kg for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg for rice.

(b) The State of Andhra Pradesh was allotted 1.868 lakh tonnes of foodgrains in 2000-01 and 2.616 lakh tonnes during 2002-03 under AAY. The present scale of issue to each family under AAY is 35 kg. per family per month.

(c) As per the guidelines issued to States/Union Territories for identification of beneficiaries under AAY, a tentative list of the poorest of the poor amongst the BPL families for each Panchayat area is drawn up which is read out in the meeting of the Gram Sabha for finalization by arranging the names in order of priority.

(d) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has constituted Food Advisory Committees at Mandal, Districts and State Levels to monitor functioning of the Public Distribution System.